

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4121

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16576

DEPARTMENT FOR "A" AND WHITE HOUSE FOR RUSTAND/HENKEL

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJ: PRESIDENT FORD'S VLADIVOSTOK TRIP

REF: A) MOSCOW 16575; B) STATE 237886

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY COMMENT ON STATE 237886
AND AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON KORNIYENKO, REPORTED IN
MOSCOW 16575.

2. WE ASSUME THAT CERTAIN OF THE DETAILS OF PARAGRAPHS
7-14 OF STATE 237886 WERE NOT MEANT TO APPLY TO US.
I INTEND TO SEND POLITICAL COUNSELOR MARSHALL BREMENT
TO COORDINATE ADVANCE PLANNING FOR VISIT, AS WELL AS
SENIOR EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES IN EACH OF AREAS COVERED
BY PRE-ADVANCE AND ADVANCE TEAMS. WE HOPE THAT SOVIETS
WELL PERMIT THEIR TRAVEL TO VLADIVOSTOK AREA SUFFICIENTLY
PRIOR TO PRE-ADVANCE TEAM'S ARRIVAL FOR THEM TO BE
FAMILIAR WITH LOCAL CONDITIONS AND OFFICIALS, BUT
CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT SOVIETS WILL MOVE THAT RAPIDLY.

3. AS WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT DOUBTLESS RECOGNIZE,
LOGISTIC SUPPORT OVER THE 5,000 MILE MOSCOW TO VLADIVOSTOK
ROUTE POSES MAJOR PROBLEMS. DISTANCE AND UNRELIABILITY
OF AEROFLOT WILL SEVERELY CIRCUMSCRIBE EMBASSY'S CAPACITY
TO MOVE MATERIAL AND--TO LESSER DEGREE--PEOPLE. THERE
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ARE TWO DAILY AEROFLOT FLIGHTS: ONE DEPARTS MOSCOW AT

1220 HOURS AND ARRIVES VLADIVOSTOK THE NEXT DAY AT 0840 HOURS LOCAL VIA Khabarovsk (TOTAL FLIGHT TIME 13 HOURS, 20 MINUTES). THE OTHER FLIGHT DEPARTS MOSCOW AT 1655 HOURS AND ARRIVES VLADIVOSTOK FOLLOWING DAY AT 1010 HOURS LOCAL VIA Krasnoyarsk (TOTAL FLIGHT TIME 11 HOURS, 15 MINUTES). SCHEDULES, HOWEVER, WILL CHANGE NOVEMBER 15 AND INFORMATION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AS TO THEIR RECONFIGURATION UNTIL ABOUT NOVEMBER 10. (TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VLADIVOSTOK AND MOSCOW IS SEVEN HOURS.)

4. WHILE WE ARE SEEKING GUARANTEED SPACE AND SPECIAL HANDLING, EXPERIENCE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT AEROFLOT SCHEDULING AND OPERATIONS SIMPLY CANNOT BE RELIED UPON-- HOWEVER CAREFULLY PLANS ARE LAID AND COORDINATED.

5. IN VIEW OF ABOVE DIFFICULTIES, STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE, SUPPORT FLIGHTS STAGED FROM AND USING RESOURCES OF EAST ASIAN POSTS SUCH AS TOKYO, SEOUL, OR OTHERS BE UTILIZED. THIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR DELICATE EQUIPMENT SUCH AS XEROX MACHINES. AS REGARDS SUPPORT PERSONNEL WHERE KNOWLEDGE OF RUSSIAN IS NOT ESSENTIAL (E.G., MARINE GUARDS, SECRETARIES, ETC.) WE WOULD TDY TRANSFERS OUT OF EAST ASIA ON SUPPORT FLIGHTS IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD URGE THAT, IF PRE-ADVANCE AND ADVANCE TEAMS REQUIRE MSG COVERAGE FROM TIME OF ARRIVAL, THEY BRING TDY MARINES ON PRE-ADVANCE AIRCRAFT.

6. SINCE IT IS CLEAR THAT FACILITIES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE VLADIVOSTOK AREA ARE VERY LIMITED, EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MINIMIZE THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL TRAVELLING THERE.

7. APPRECIATE COMMENT ASAP ON THE POINTS RAISED BY KORNIYENKO (REFTEL A).
STOESSEL

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